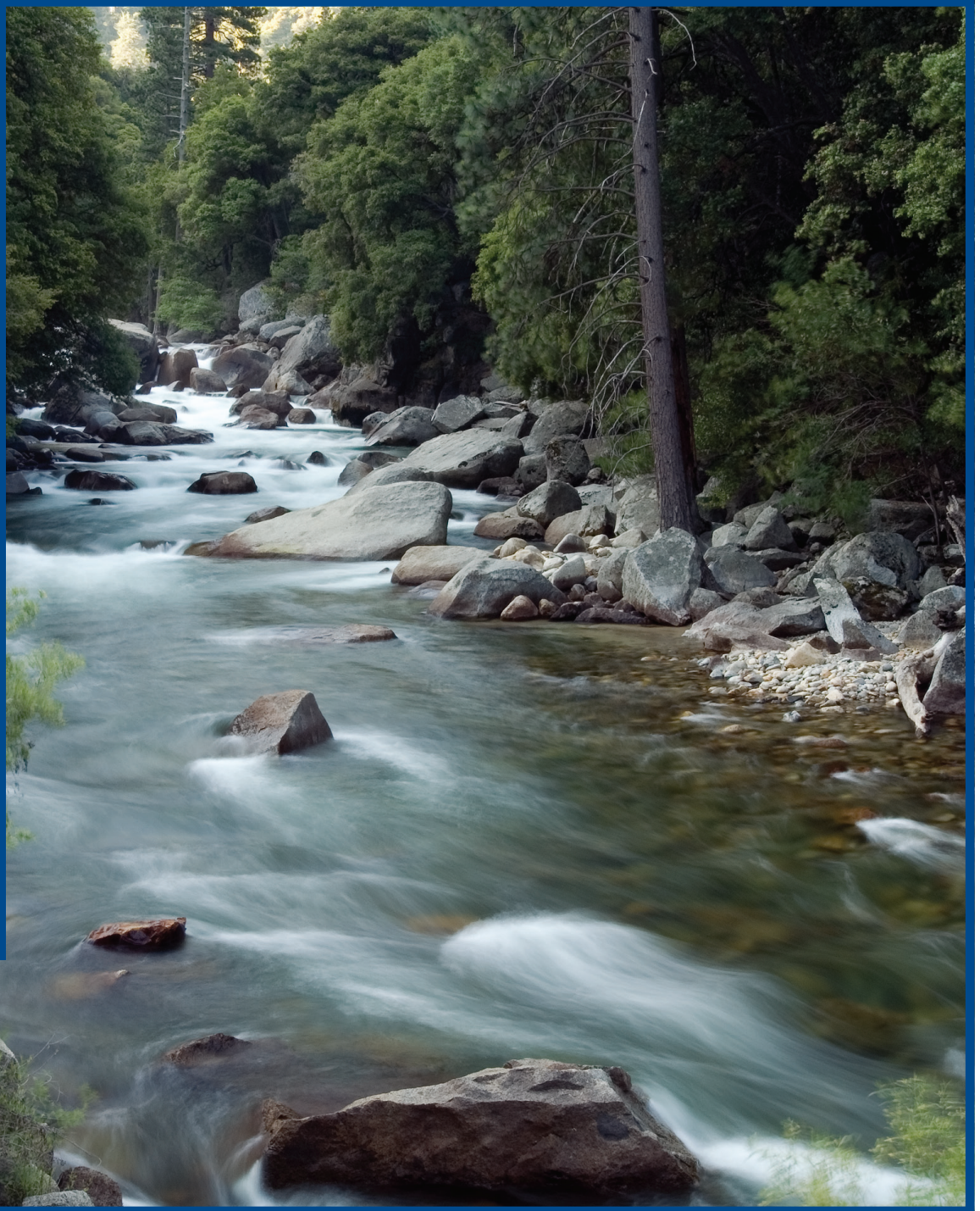


6

Science Standard
6.2.b.



The Dynamic Nature of Rivers

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Approved by the California State Board of Education, 2010

The Education and the Environment Curriculum is a cooperative endeavor of the following entities:

California Environmental Protection Agency
California Natural Resources Agency
Office of the Secretary of Education
California State Board of Education
California Department of Education
California Integrated Waste Management Board

Key Leadership for the Education and Environment Initiative:

Linda Adams, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Patty Zwarts, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Legislation, California Environmental Protection Agency
Andrea Lewis, Assistant Secretary for Education and Quality Programs, California Environmental Protection Agency
Mark Leary, Executive Director, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Mindy Fox, Director, Office of Education and the Environment, California Integrated Waste Management Board

Key Partners:

Special thanks to **Heal the Bay**, sponsor of the EEI law, for their partnership and participation in reviewing portions of the EEI curriculum.

Valuable assistance with maps, photos, videos and design was provided by the **National Geographic Society** under a contract with the State of California.

Office of Education and the Environment

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95812 • (916) 341-6769
<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/>

© Copyright 2010 by the State of California
All rights reserved.

This publication, or parts thereof, may not be used or reproduced without permission from the
Office of Education and the Environment.

These materials may be reproduced by teachers for educational purposes.



Contents

Lesson 1 Introducing a River System

- 1 The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta 3

Lesson 2 Holding Sediment in Suspension

- 2 Mountain Stream 4
- 3 Delta Slough 5

Lesson 3 Benefits Rivers Bring Us

- 4 The Benefits of Rivers: Irrigation 6
- 5 The Benefits of Rivers: Recreation 7
- 6 The Benefits of Rivers: Soil Renewal 8
- 7 The Benefits of Rivers: Power Generation 9
- 8 The Benefits of Rivers: Transportation 10
- 9 The Benefits of Rivers: Fish and Wildlife 11
- 10 The Benefits of Rivers: Drinking Water 12

Lesson 4 Ebb and Flow: Rivers' Changing Courses

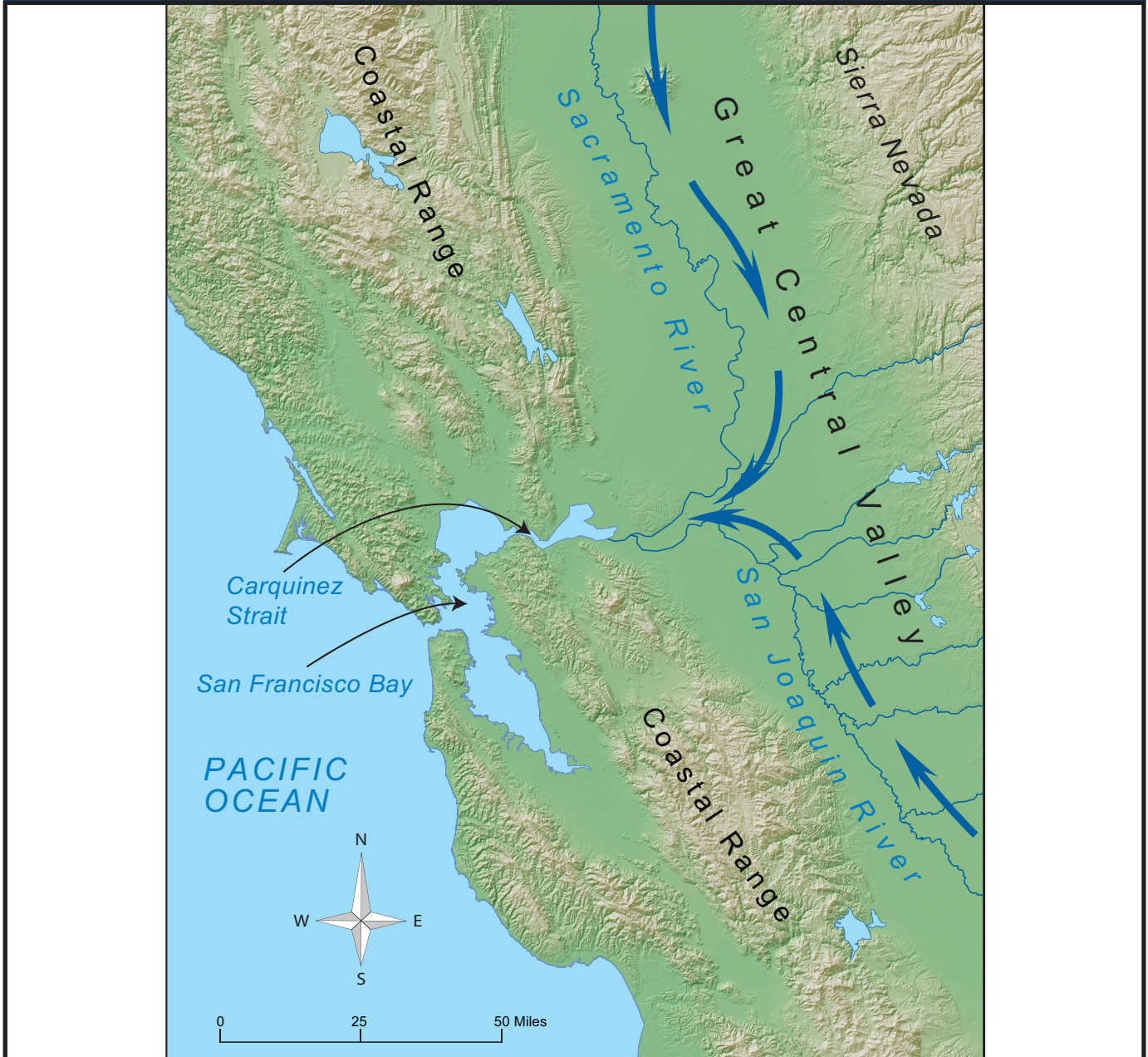
- 11 Meandering River 13
- 12 Erosion and Deposition 14
- 13 House Falling into a River 15
- 14 Houses on the Floodplain: 1960 16
- 15 Houses on the Floodplain: 1965 17
- 16 Houses on the Floodplain: 1970 18
- 17 Houses on the Floodplain: 1975 19
- 18 Houses on the Floodplain: 1980 20

19	Houses on the Floodplain: 1985	21
20	Houses on the Floodplain: 1990	22

Lesson 5 Flow and Flooding: River Control

21	Flow in Two California Rivers: Smith Data	23
22	Flow in Two California Rivers: Merced Data	24
23	River Map	25
24	The Los Angeles River Before and After	26

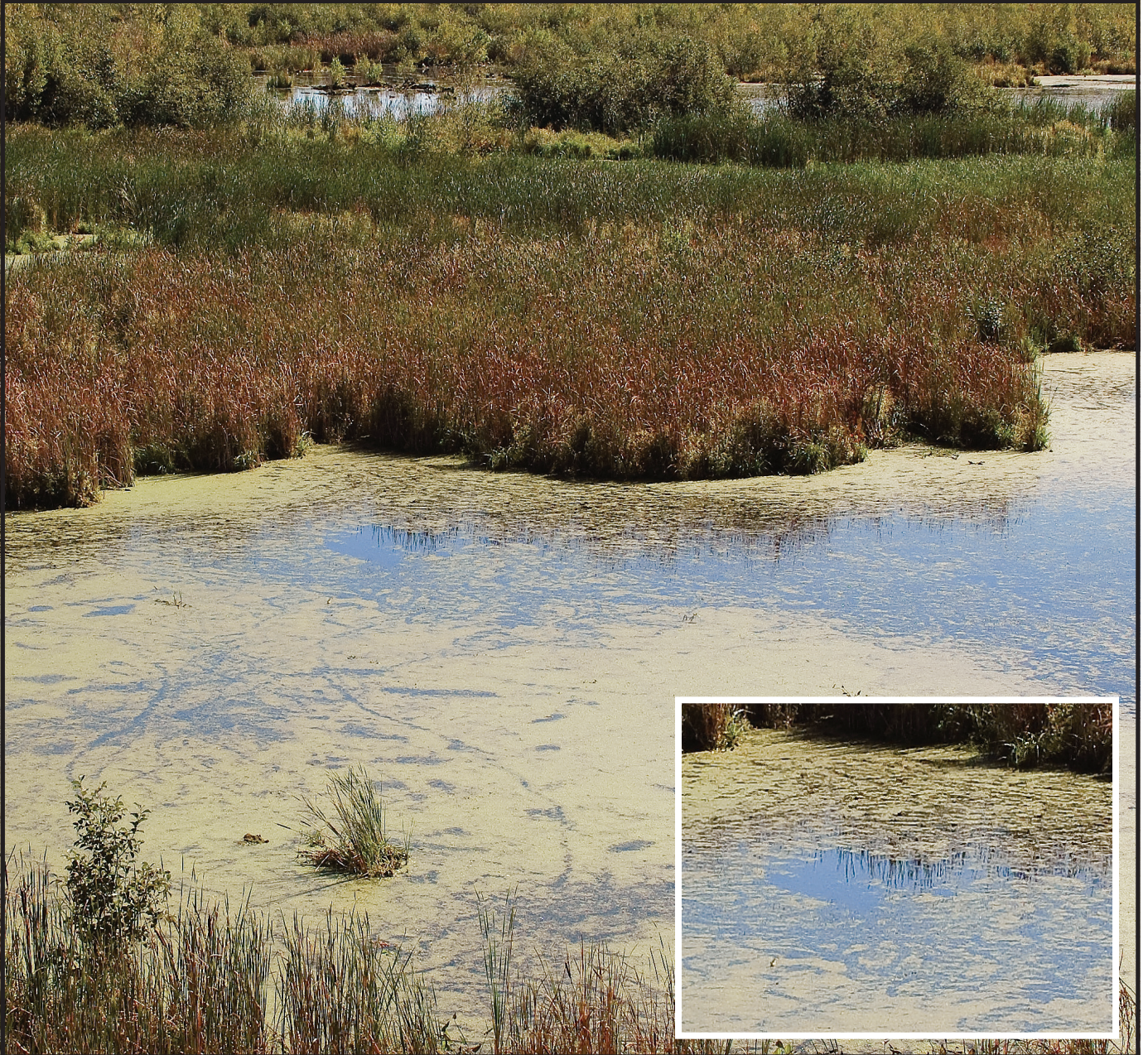
VA #1 The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta



VA #2 Mountain Stream



VA #3 Delta Slough



VA #4 The Benefits of Rivers: Irrigation



VA #5 The Benefits of Rivers: Recreation



VA #6 The Benefits of Rivers: Soil Renewal



VA #7 The Benefits of Rivers: Power Generation



VA #8 The Benefits of Rivers: Transportation



VA #9 The Benefits of Rivers: Fish and Wildlife



VA #10 The Benefits of Rivers: Drinking Water

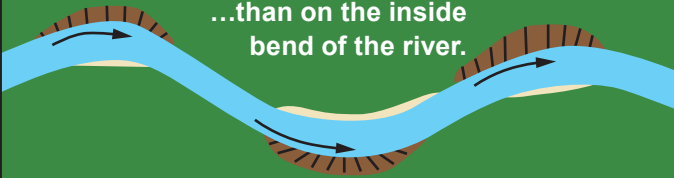
VA #11 Meandering River



VA #12 Erosion and Deposition

The water in a river channel flows faster round the outside bend of a river...

...than on the inside bend of the river.

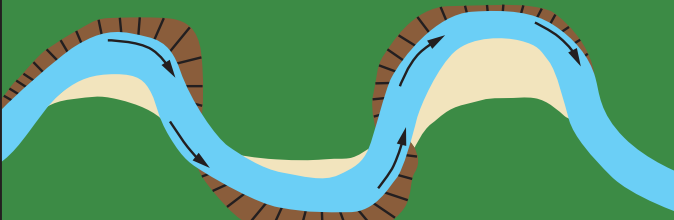


Faster flowing water on the outside bend erodes the river bank.



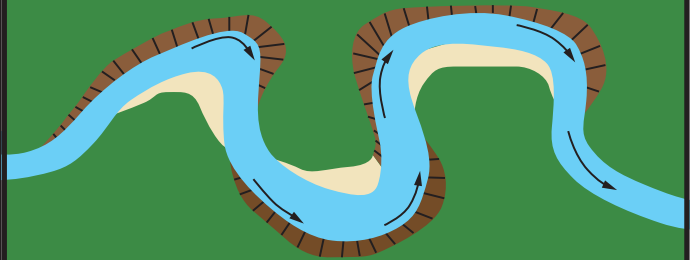
Slow moving water deposits sand and mud on the inside bend.

Where the river bank is being eroded, a steep river cliff is created.

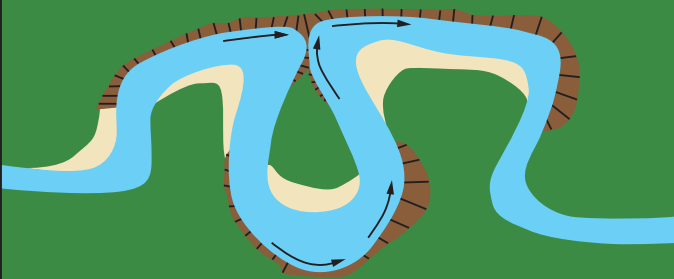


The deposited sand and mud creates a river beach or slip-off slope.

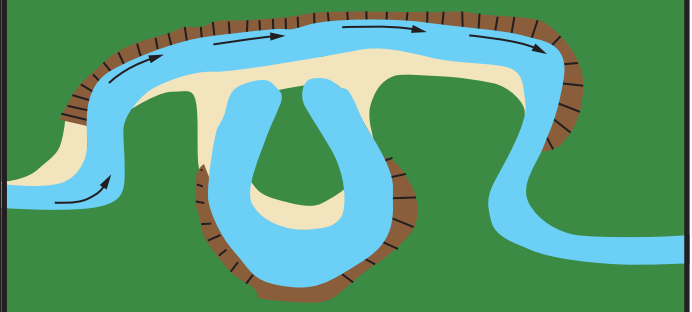
The river continues to erode and deposit material. Eventually the curves of the river channel become very close.



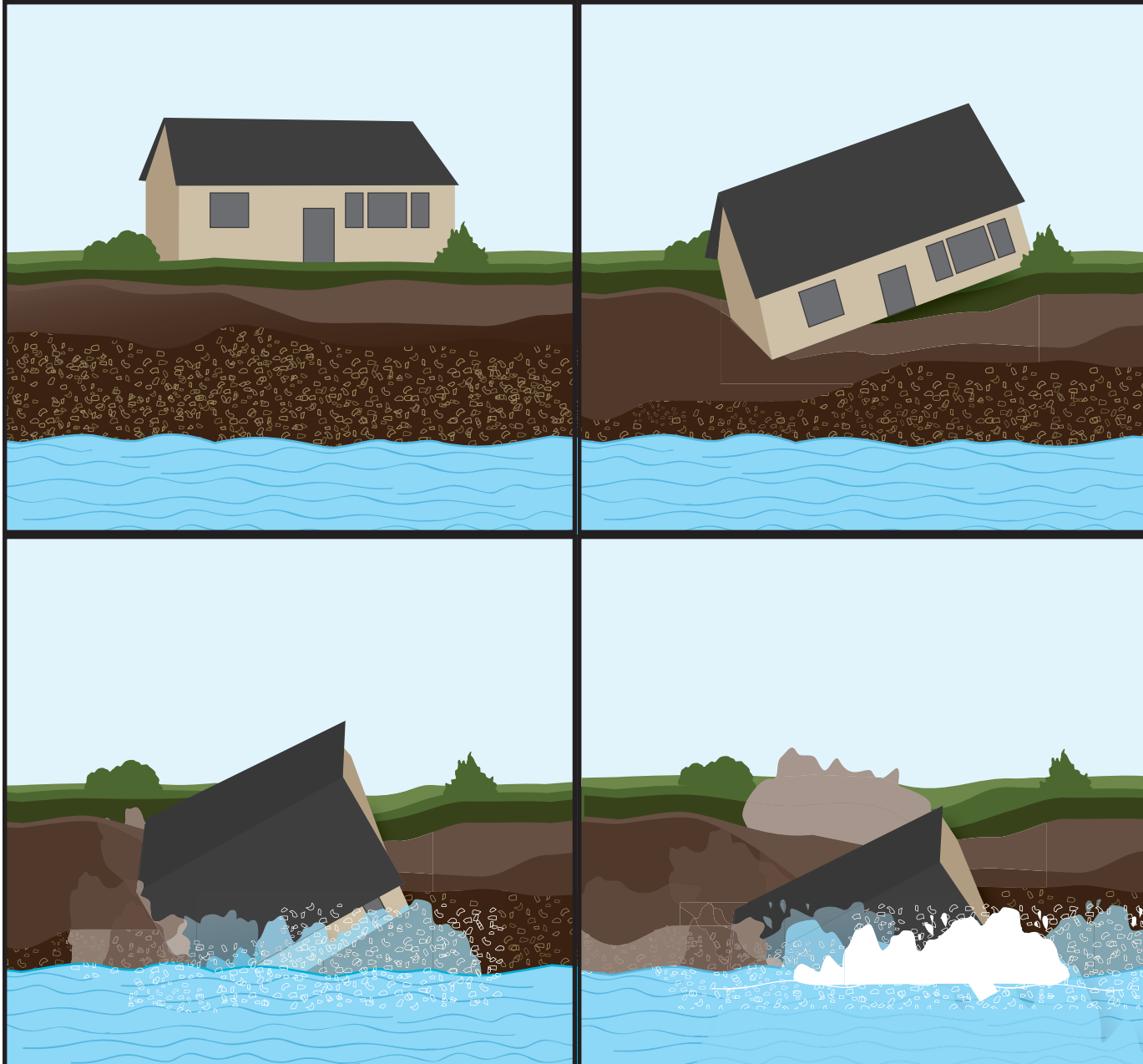
The river breaks through this thin barrier. The water no longer flows round the meander but straight along the new channel.



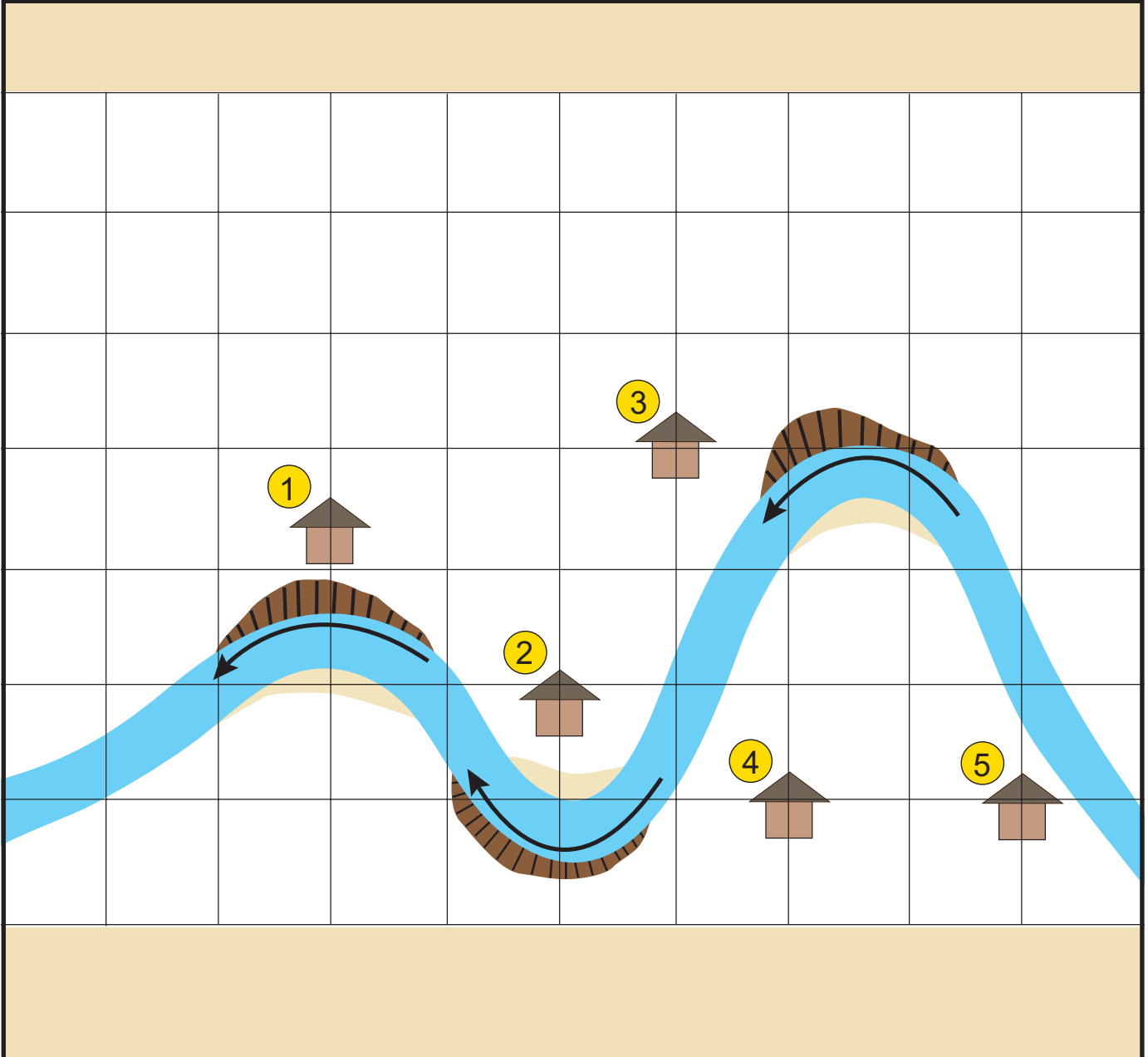
The old course of the river channel becomes an oxbow lake. This lake soon dries out.



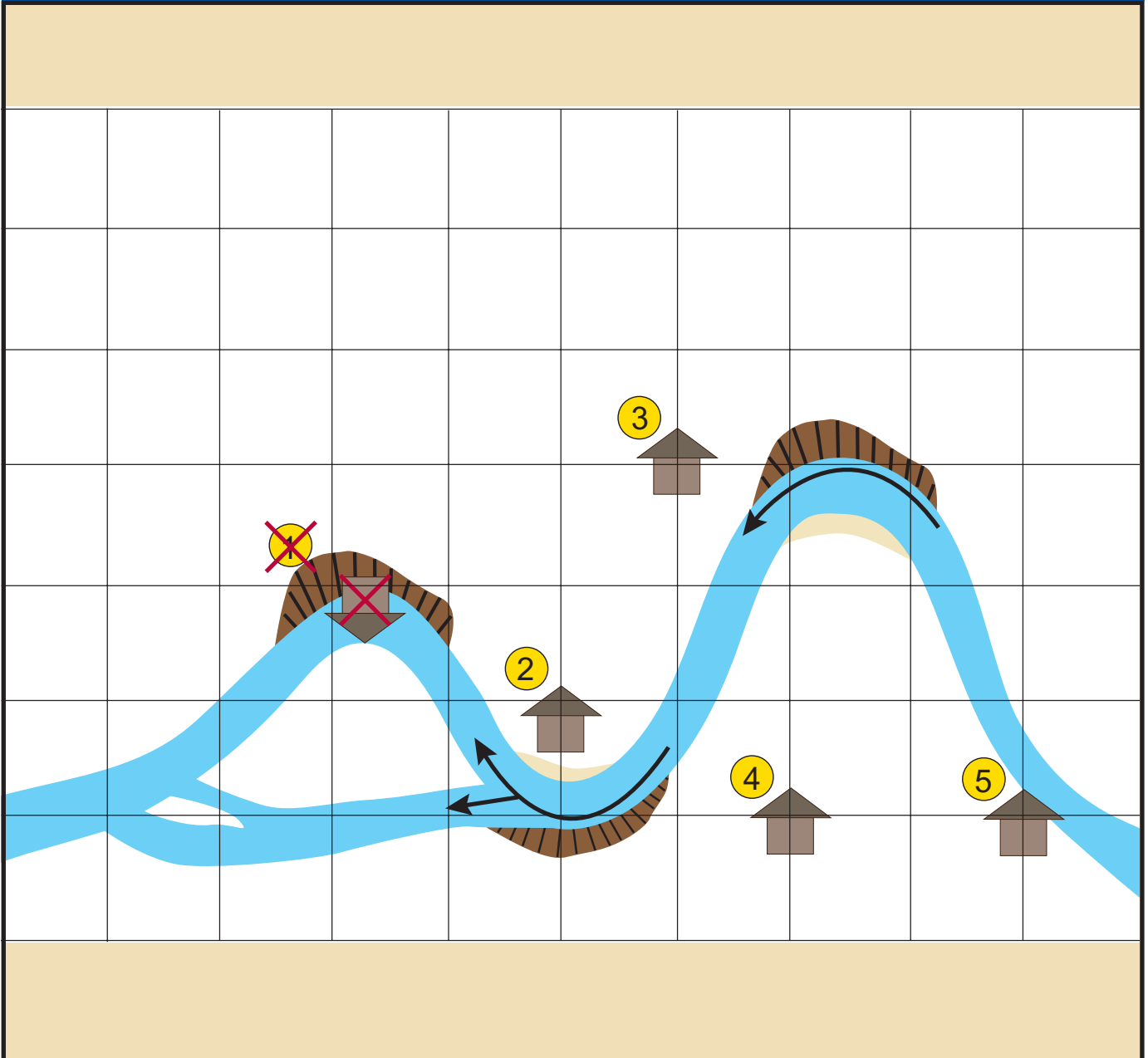
VA #13 House Falling into a River



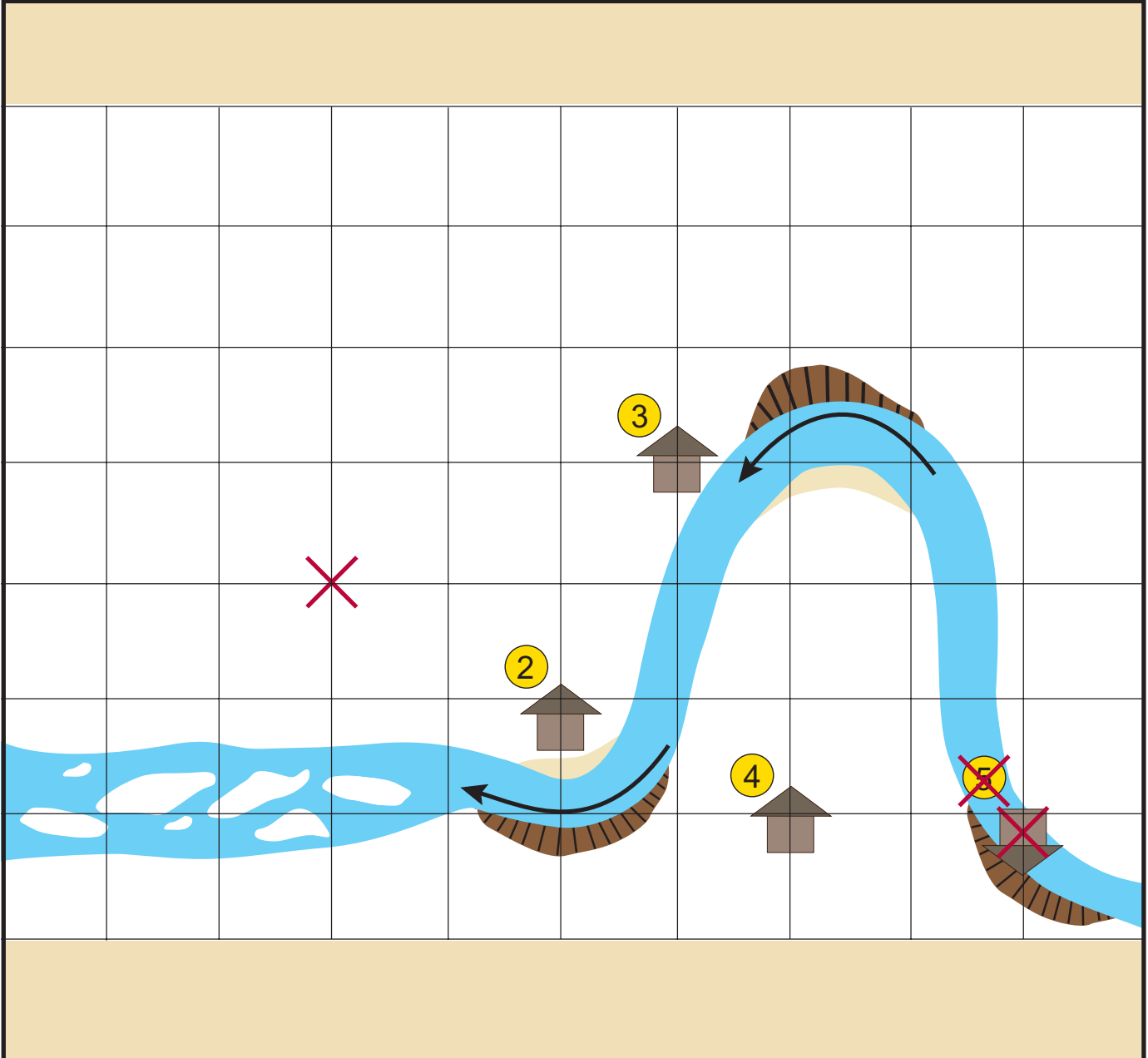
VA #14 Houses on the Floodplain: 1960



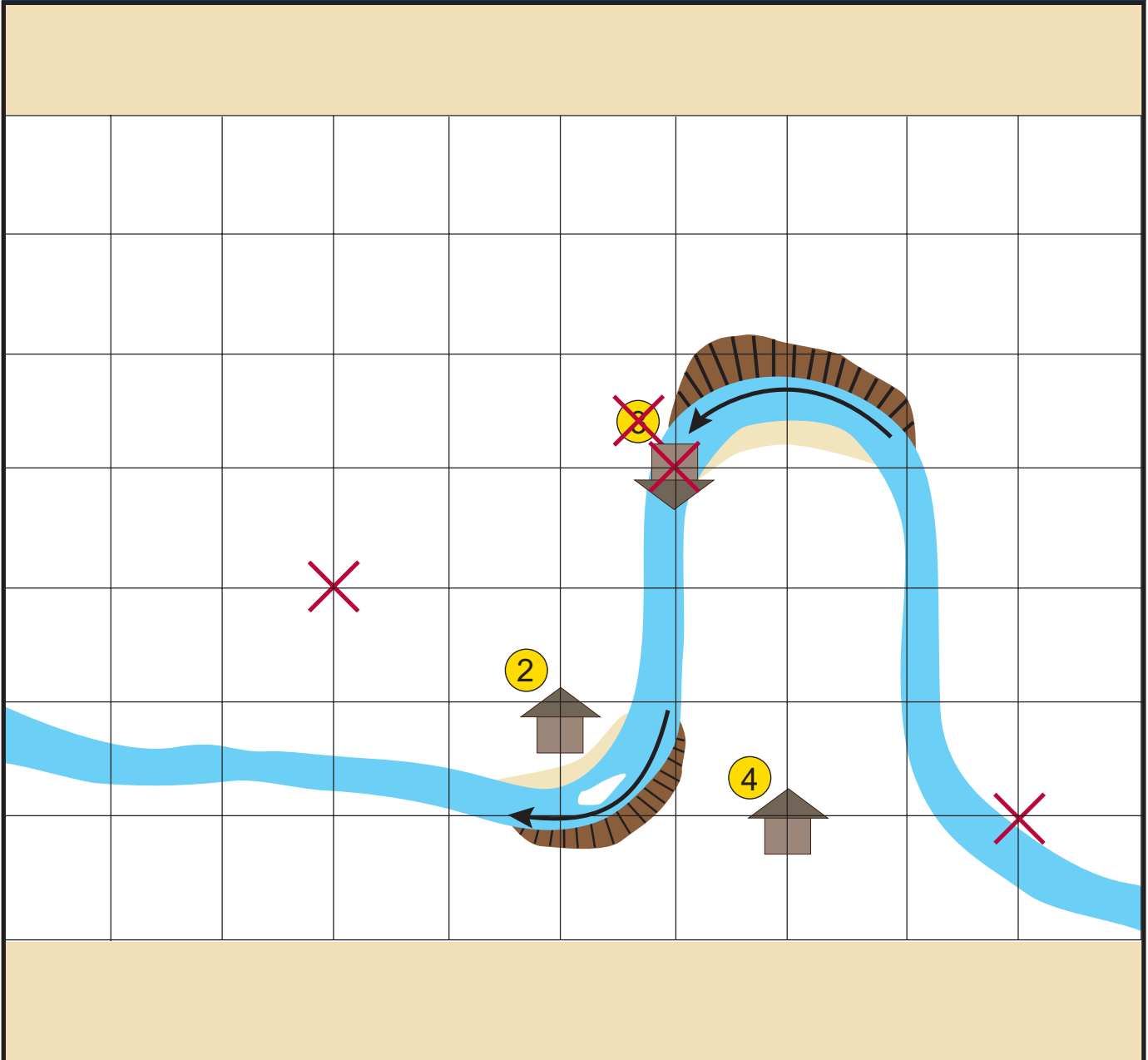
VA #15 Houses on the Floodplain: 1965



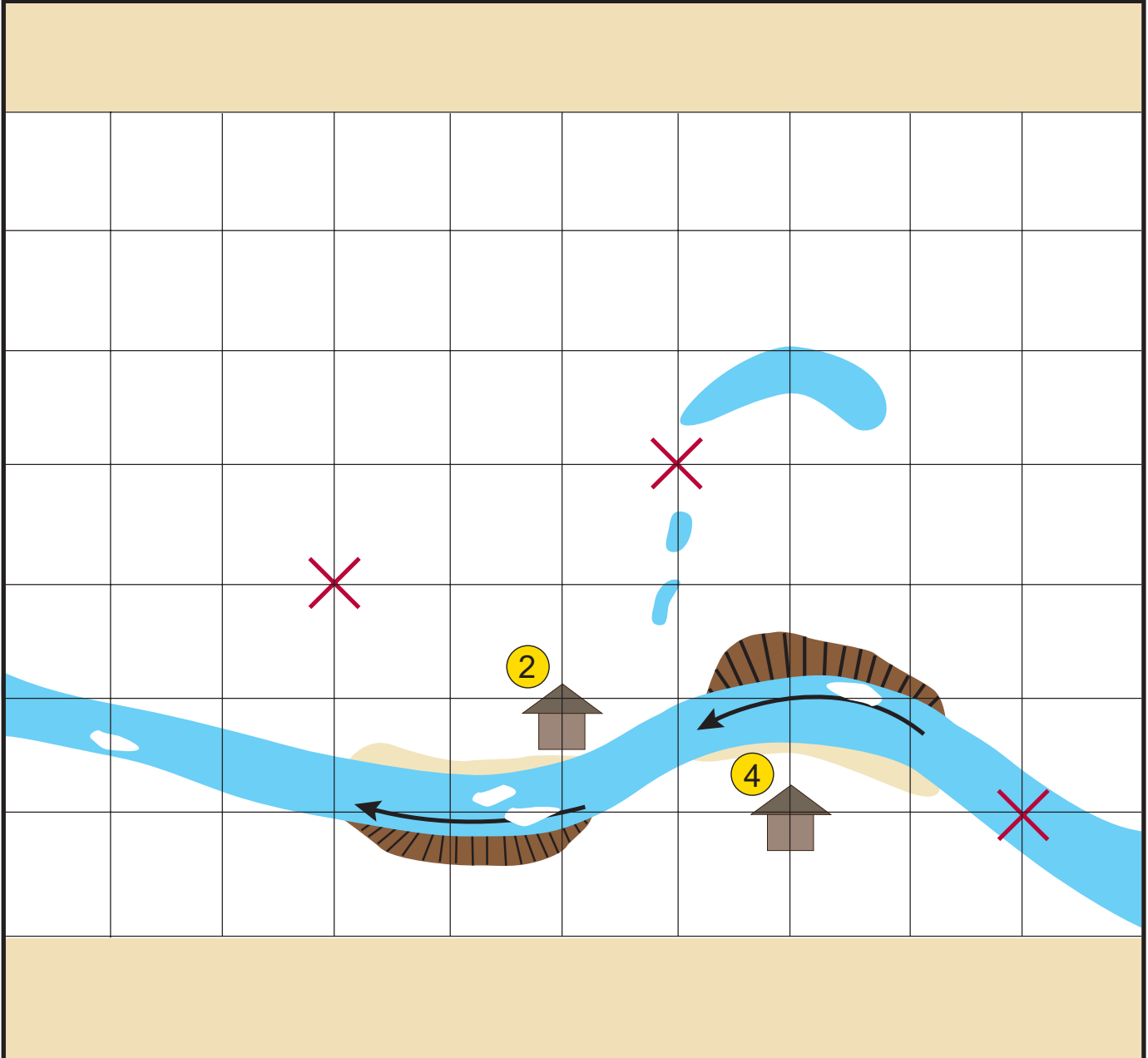
VA #16 Houses on the Floodplain: 1970



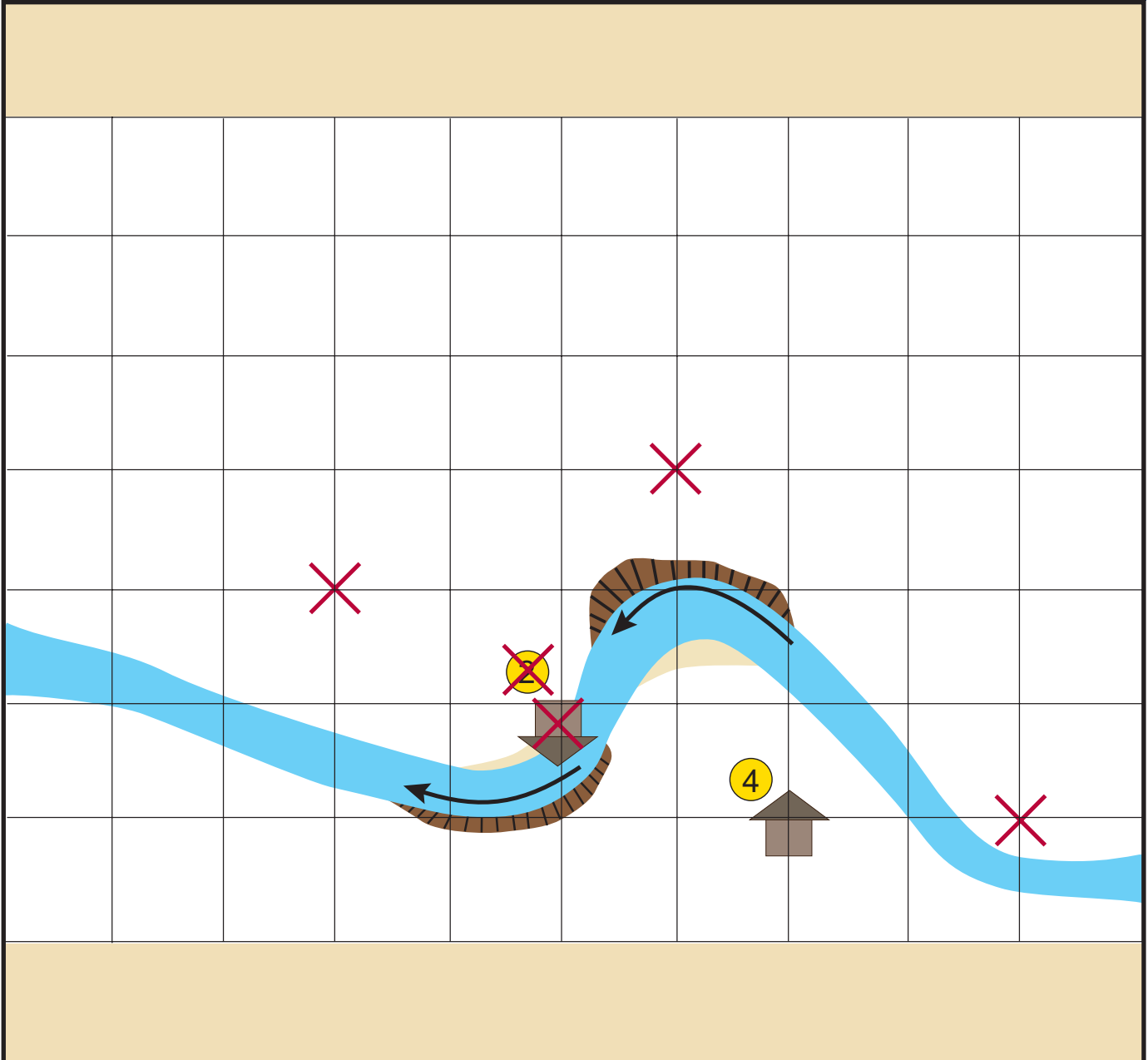
VA #17 Houses on the Floodplain: 1975



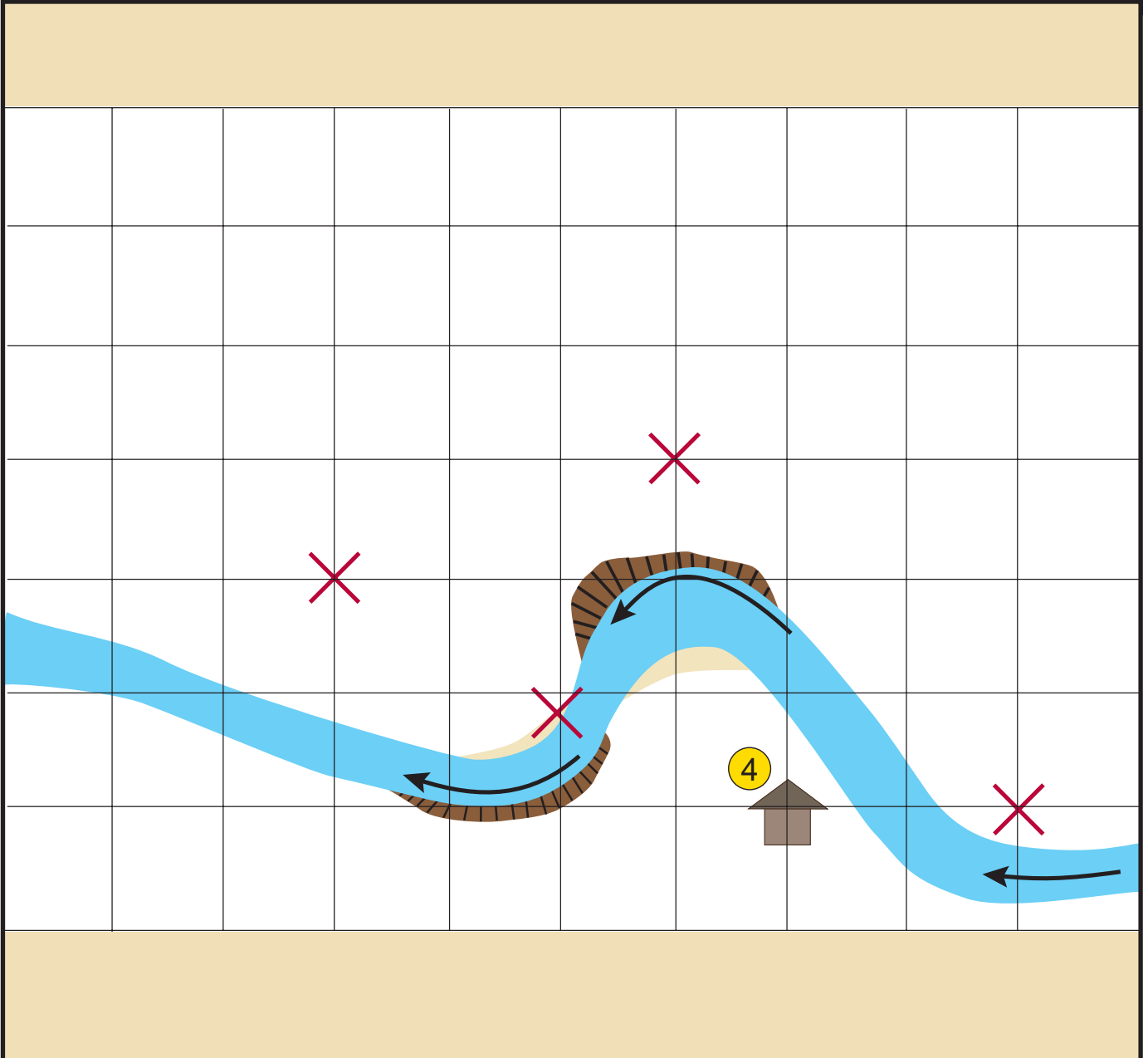
VA #18 Houses on the Floodplain: 1980



VA #19 Houses on the Floodplain: 1985



VA #20 Houses on the Floodplain: 1990



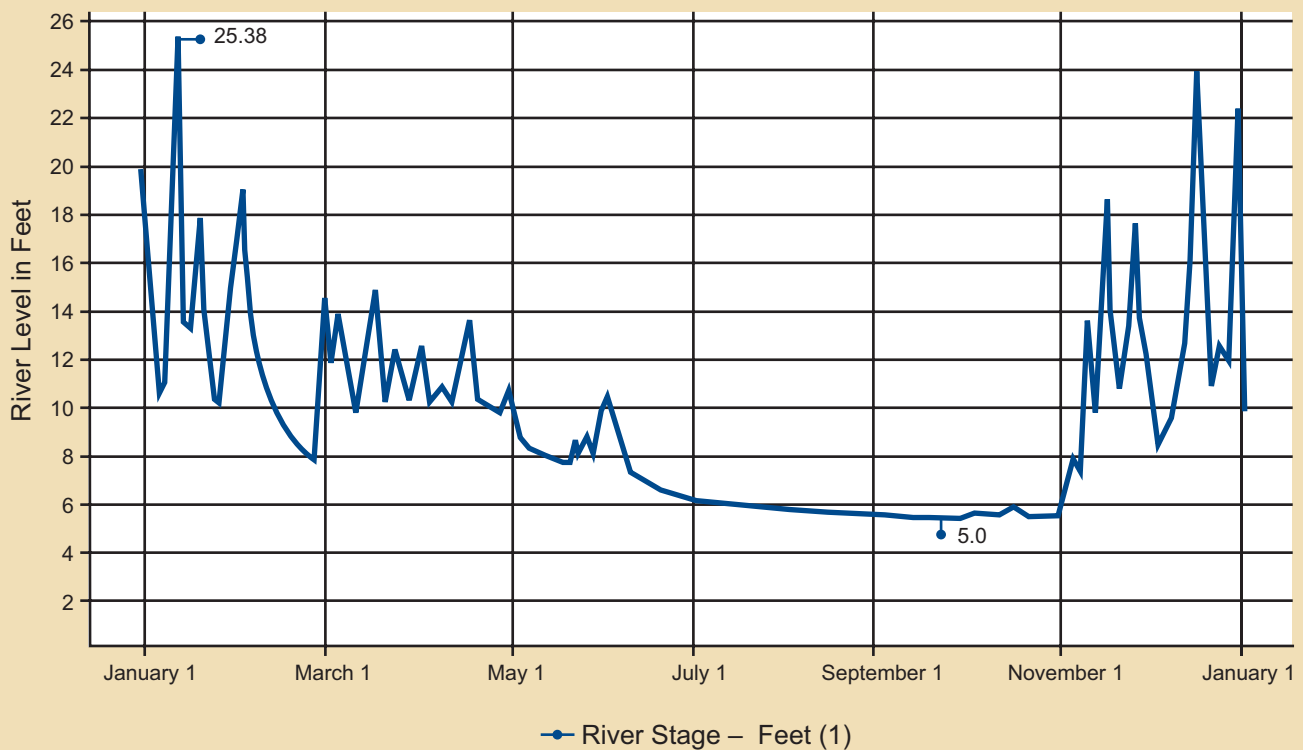
VA #21 Flow in Two California Rivers: Smith Data

Smith River near Crescent City

Data from January 1, 2006, through January 1, 2007. Duration: 366 days

Max. of period: (Jan. 11, 2006, 00:45, 25.38 feet)

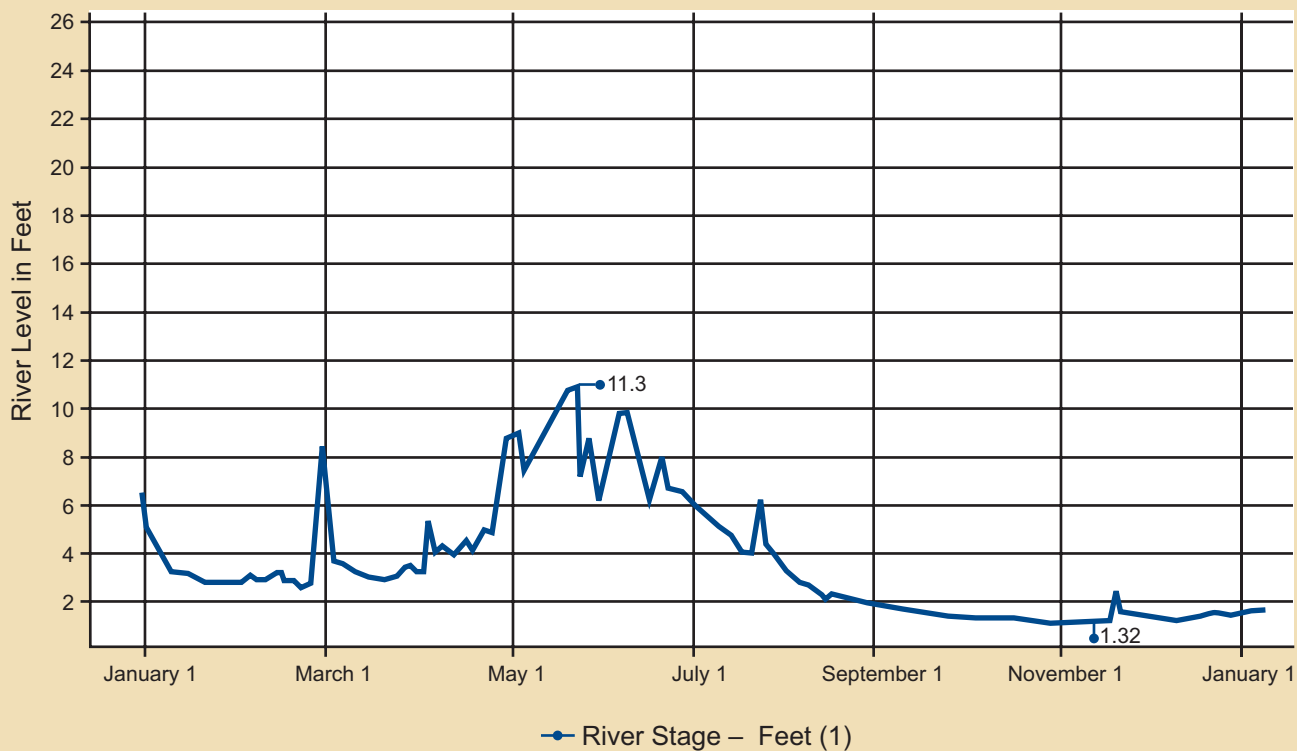
Min. of period: (Sept. 17, 2006, 16:00, 5.0 feet)



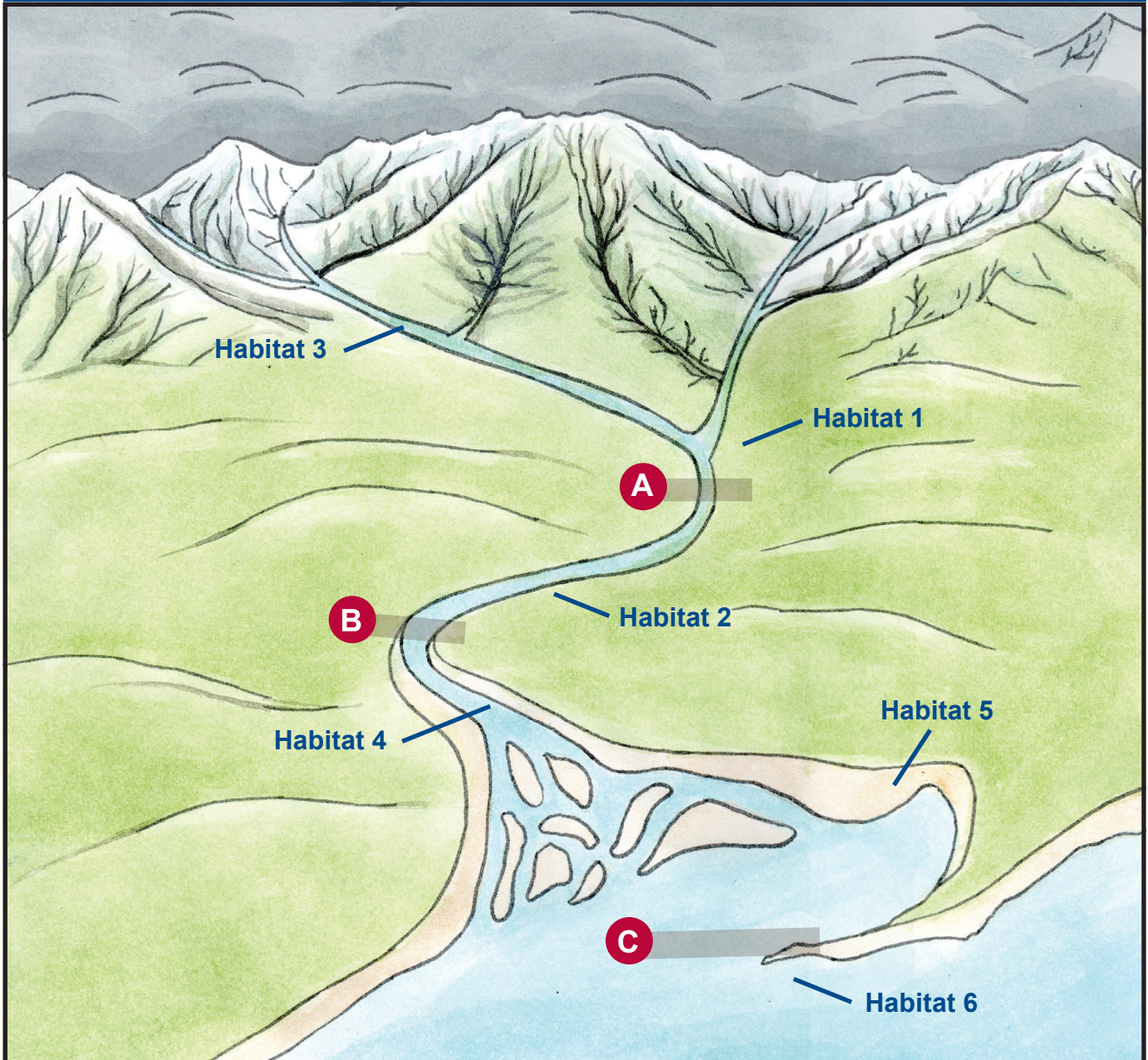
VA #22 Flow in Two California Rivers: Merced Data

Merced River at Pohono Bridge

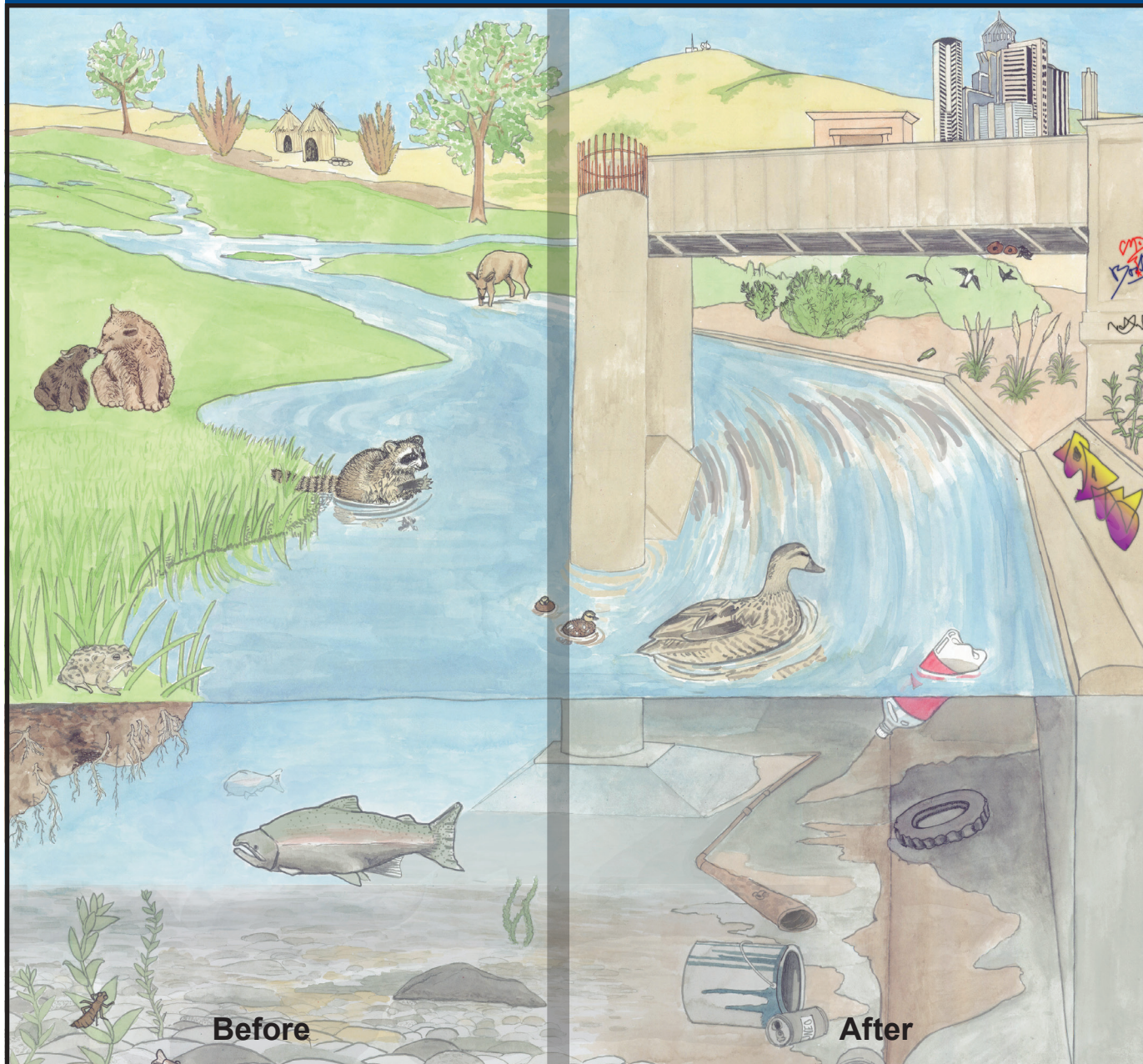
Data from January 1, 2006, through January 1, 2007. Duration: 366 days
Max. of period: (May 17, 2006, 12:16, 11.3 feet) Min. of period: (Nov. 7, 2006, 8:15, 1.32 feet)



VA #23 River Map



VA #24 The Los Angeles River Before and After





California STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

California Education and the Environment Initiative

